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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SEVENOAKS

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for

1946

together with the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

TONBRIDGE FREE PRESS, LTD.
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Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1946

on the

Sanitary Conditions and
Vital Statistics of the
Sevenoaks Urban District

by the

Medical Officer of Health

Together with the Report
of the Sanitary Inspector

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SEVENOAKS

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1946.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Health Report for the year 1946, this being the twenty-fourth presented by me as your Medical Officer of Health.

The population of the District as estimated at mid-year was 14,150, as compared with 13,090 last year.

An increase in the Birth Rate took place, this being 18·5 per thousand of population, as against 14·5 last year.

The Death Rate for the year showed a decrease, the Rate being 12·2 per thousand of population, as compared with 13·3 last year.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was equal to 19 per thousand registered Births, as compared with 47 last year and 48 in 1944.

During the year 118 Certificates of Notification of Infectious Disease were received as against 198 last year. The diseases accounting for the largest number of Certificates were: Measles 80, and Scarlet Fever 26.

In presenting this Report, I desire to thank the Council and all its Officers for the kind help and assistance they have given me. I would particularly desire to place on record my appreciation of the loyal and efficient services rendered by Mr. Gypps and the Health Visitor.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. N. CAVE,
Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SEVENOAKS

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

P. N. CAVE, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

W. J. GYPPS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

General Assistant:

S. C. CLARK.

Health Visitor:

Miss M. SHIEL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Clerk to Health Visitor:

Mrs. I. DANIELS.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	3,720
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1946	14,150
Number of occupied houses, December, 1946 ...	4,421
Rateable Value of District	£171,742
Sum represented by a penny rate	£667

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.
Live Births:				
Legitimate	249	116	133	
Illegitimate	14	6	8	
Total Births ...	263	122	141	18·5

				Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births.
Stillbirths	5	2	3	18·6

				Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.
Deaths	173	72	101	12·2

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
Deaths from puerperal causes:		
Puerperal Sepsis	*Nil*	—
Other puerperal causes	*Nil*	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births (5)	19
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births (5)	20
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	36
do. Measles (all ages)	*Nil*
do. Whooping Cough (all ages)	*Nil*
do. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—During the year 263 Births were registered, of which number 122 were males and 141 were females. This is equal to an Annual Birth Rate of 18·5 per thousand of population, as against 14·5 last year.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered during the year belonging to the District was 173 (72 males and 101 females). This gives a Death Rate of 12·2 per thousand of population, as compared with 13·3 last year.

Infantile Mortality Rate.—During the year five deaths occurred in Infants under one year of age (all being legitimate). The Infantile Mortality Rate was therefore equal to 19 per thousand registered births, as compared with 47 last year.

	Sevenoaks Urban District.	England and Wales.
Birth Rate	18·5	19·1
Death Rate	12·2	11·5
Infantile Mortality Rate ...	19	43

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1946.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000)	London Administrative County	Sevenoaks Urban District
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
BIRTHS:					
Live	19.1	22.2	21.3	21.5	18.5
Still	0.55	0.67	0.59	0.54	—
DEATHS:					
All Causes	11.5	12.7	11.7	12.7	12.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	—
Diphtheria	0 01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Influenza	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.07
Smallpox	0 00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	—
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under one year of age	43	45	37	41	19
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2	3.8
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
NOTIFICATIONS:					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06	—
Scarlet Fever	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42	1.83
Whooping Cough	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22	0.35
Diphtheria	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24	—
Erysipelas	0.32	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.14
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	3.92	4.75	3.70	7.35	5.63
Pneumonia	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75	0.21
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
NOTIFICATIONS:					
Puerperal Fever	8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62	3.73
Puerperal Pyrexia				9.68*	

A dash (—) signifies there were no deaths.

* Including Puerperal Fever.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following Table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, together with the number of cases removed to Hospital and the deaths registered:—

Disease	Number notified	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	26	17	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...
Pneumonia	3	...	1*
Malaria	1	...	...
Whooping Cough	5	...	...
Measles	80	1	...
TOTALS	118	18	1

* All forms of Pneumonia.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The following work has been carried out in connection with the immunisation of children against Diphtheria:—

	Under 5.	Over 5.
Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation	124	18
Total number of children who were given a reinforcing injection ...	190	—

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No cases were notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, together with the number of deaths registered:—

	Notified			Deaths		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary . .	6	3	9	3	2	5
Non-Pulmonary	5	3	8	—	—	—
Total	11	6	17	3	2	5

Treatment for cases of Tuberculosis is carried out by the Kent County Council, and during the year the following number of patients from this District have received treatment:—

Number receiving sanatorium treatment 16
Number receiving dispensary treatment 16
Dispensary supervision only 43

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Section 176).

No action was required under the above during the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

During the year the following number of patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital:—

Diphtheria ... ... 5 (1 confirmed)
Varicella 1
Mumps 1
German Measles 1
Cerebro Spinal Fever 3

Very great difficulty has been experienced in keeping the Hospital working owing to the difficulty in obtaining staff, particularly domestic staff.

Owing to the lack of domestic staff the Hospital had to be closed from 12th April until the end of the year.

LABORATORY WORK.

The bacteriological work in connection with this District is carried out at the Kent County Laboratory, Maidstone. During the year the following number of specimens from this District have been examined there:—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Swabs for Dipthesia	—	2	2
Sputa for Tubercle	10	—	10
Faeces for Dysentery	3	—	3
Faeces for Typhi Murium	3	—	3
Totals...	16	2	18

DRAINAGE.

During the year the following extensions to the sewers were carried out by the Council in connection with their Housing Scheme at Seal Hollow Road:—

2,053 feet of 6in. soil sewer.
46 feet of 9in. do.
604 feet of 9in. surface water sewer.
375 feet of 6in. do.

SANITARY STATISTICS.

No. of Houses connected to the sewer	No. of Houses not connected to the sewer	No. of Houses not provided with piped water supply	No. of wells still in use for purpose of domestic water supply
3,943	142	nil	nil

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

W.C.'s	Pan or Pail Closets	Midden Privies	Cesspools	
			No. of	No. of houses connected
5,929	2	2	131	138

WATER SUPPLY.

The following extensions to the water mains were laid by the Sevenoaks Water Works Company during the year:—

518 yards of 6in. main—Downsview Road.
168 yards of 6in. main—Seal Hollow Road Housing Estate.
159 yards of 4in. main—Seal Hollow Road Housing Estate.
103 yards of 6in. main—The Rise, Tonbridge Road.
136 yards of 4in. main—The Rise, Tonbridge Road.

The water supply to the District is satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity.

During the year nine samples of domestic water supply were collected from various parts of the District and submitted to the County Laboratory for examination. The results of all these were satisfactory.

HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) 14
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 42
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ... *Nil*
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... *Nil*
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... *Nil*
(4) Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 14

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 13

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... *Nil*

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
(a) By owners ... ... *Nil*
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... *Nil*

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.
(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... *Nil*
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
(a) By owners ... ... *Nil*
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... *Nil*

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... *Nil*
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... *Nil*

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... *Nil*
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit ... ... *Nil*

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV: Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year 4
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 4
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 24

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 17

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 13
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases... 58

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... *Nil*

Number of new houses erected during the year:—
By the Council 55
By other persons 27

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

No important alteration in the method of collection or disposal of house refuse was made during the year.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

The contents of cesspools are emptied by the Council's cesspool emptier at the request of the occupiers of the premises concerned.

ANTE- AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

The following work has been done in connection with the Ante- and Post-natal Clinics during the year:—

	Ante-natal Clinic.	Post-natal Clinic.
Total number who first attended ...	169	30
Total attendances	502	30
Number of sessions held	20	10

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Number of names on register	576
Number of children who attended, and at the date of their first attendance were: Under 1 year ...	224
Over 1 year ...	52
Total attendances: Under 1 year	3,192
Over 1 year	3,504
Number of sessions held	100
Average attendance per session	67

SUNLIGHT TREATMENT.

The following work has been done in connection with the Sunlight Clinic during the year:—

Number of sessions held	8
Number of treatments given	363
Number of children treated	50

HOME HELPS.

The number of Home Helps employed at the end of the year were three full-time and two part-time.

During the year 26 maternity and 32 general cases were served.

NURSING AND MATERNITY HOMES.

The powers under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to Nursing and Maternity Homes have been delegated by the County Council to the District Council.

There are four registered premises within the District, which provide 9 beds for maternity cases and 20 beds for other cases.

HEALTH VISITOR.

The Council employs one full-time Health Visitor, who works under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year she has paid the following number of visits:—

	First Visits.	Total Visits.
Children under 1 year of age ...	170	1,176
Children between 1 and 5 years ...	68	1,133

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

Individual foster-mothers	10
Number of children under 9 years:	
Received during the year	6
Remaining at end of the year	11
Died during the year	*Nil*

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.

Number of persons who gave notice under section 7 (3) during the year	5
Total number of children in respect of which notice was given under section 7 (3)	5
Number of children under supervision at the end of the year	2

SCHOOLS.

There are four elementary schools within the District.

It was not found necessary to close a school on account of the prevalence of infectious disease during the year.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

It gives me great pleasure again to place on record my appreciation of the work done by the Voluntary Workers of the Sevenoaks Mothers and Babies Welfare during the year 1946.

The work performed so willingly by these workers is an important factor in maintaining the efficiency and easy running of the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Services, and the very satisfactory standard reached and maintained in the town is due, in no small measure, to their efforts.

SUMMARY OF REGULATED TRADES.

	Number of Premises	Visits Paid	Defects.	
			Found.	Remedied.
Dairies	7	128	3	3
Cowsheds	2	16	1	1
Slaughterhouses ...	2	417	2	2
Bakehouses	7	58	5	5
Piggeries	1	—	—	—
Other food preparing places	47	353	11	11
Factories Workshops Workplaces ...	86	40	1	1
Totals...	152	1066	23	23

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

During the year the Council granted the following number of licences under the above Order:—

Tuberculin Tested	4
Pasteurised	1
Pasteuriser's licence	1
Tuberculin Tested Bottler's	1

MILK SUPPLY.

During the year the following number of samples were taken under the Milk (Special Designations) Order:—

Pasteurised	21
Tuberculin Tested	7
Accredited	4

The result in each case was satisfactory.

In addition to the above, eight samples were collected from the Isolation Hospital, Oak Lane, and were found to be of good quality.

One sample of the milk supplied to the London Road Infants' School was submitted for examination, and found to be satisfactory.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1441	398	1126	5213	696
Number inspected	1441	398	563	2606	696
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcases condemned ...	2	2	1	3	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	360		1	145	27
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	19.6		0.35	5.6	4.16
Tuberculosis Only:—					
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	9	—	—	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	172		—	—	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	9.35		—	—	3.3

FOOD PREMISES.

There are 12 premises registered for the sale of ice cream and 19 premises registered for the manufacture of preserved foods.

In addition to the above there are a number of other food preparing places which do not require being registered.

During the year 353 visits were paid to these premises, and 11 minor defects relating to cleansing, etc., were discovered and dealt with by informal action.

Two samples of ice cream retailed, but not manufactured in the District, were submitted for examination.

SHOPS ACTS.

During the year 61 visits were paid under the Shops Acts, and five minor contraventions were found. All were remedied after informal action.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are two private swimming baths in the District at Sevenoaks and New Beacon Schools, and one public swimming bath controlled by the Council.

During the year two samples of water from the public swimming bath were submitted for examination and both found to be satisfactory.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year 18 visits were paid, and the following number of premises were found to be infested:—

Council houses	2
Other houses	1

In one case the premises and adjoining houses were vacated and dealt with under the Cyanide (Fumigation of Buildings) Regulations, 1938. The second case was dealt with, after being vacated, by the application of D.D.T. liquid and powder. The method adopted in the remaining case was treatment with Zaldecide.

ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYELAWS.

During the year Byelaws with respect to lodging accommodation for hop and fruit pickers were adopted.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings to enforce the abatement of nuisances during the year.

CLEANSING OF PERSONS.

During the year it was only found necessary in one case to treat the bedding used by a case of scabies.

DAY NURSERY.

The following are the particulars with respect to the Day Nursery:—

	0—2 years.	2—5 years.
Number of approved places ...	20	30
Number of children on register at end of the year	14	28

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1946.

Disease	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid Fever, ...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	..	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	..
Diphtheria	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	2	5
Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...
Influenza	1	...	1
Measles	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...
Acute Infantile Encephalitis ...	...	...	...
Cancer of Bronchial Cavity ...	1	1	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	1	4
Cancer of the Breast	...	8	8
Cancer, all other forms	8	14	22
Diabetes	...	...	...
Intra cranial ves. lesions	11	14	25
Heart diseases	19	26	45
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	6	10
Bronchitis	5	5	10
Pneumonia	...	1	1
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	...	1
Diarrhoea, (under 2 years)	...	1	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...
Other digestive diseases	...	2	2
Nephritis	1	3	4
Post and post-abortive sepsis ...	...	...	...
Other maternal causes	...	...	...
Premature Birth	...	...	...
Congenital malformation and birth injury	2	1	3
Suicide	2	1	3
Road Traffic accidents ...	...	...	...
Other violent causes	1	...	1
All other causes	10	15	25
TOTALS	72	101	173

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SEVENOAKS

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
Argyle Road,
Sevenoaks.
1946.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you a summary of the work carried out in the Public Health Department during the year 1946.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

The work of routine inspection of the District has been maintained as far as possible, and at all times special attention has been paid to the Milk supplied to the town, Food Preparing Places, and Meat Inspection at the two Government Slaughter-houses.

During the year many of the properties held under military requisition have passed to private individuals, and a number were transferred to the Council to assist in the provision of temporary housing accommodation.

All defects discovered in the course of inspections were dealt with by informal action and it was only necessary to serve one Statutory Notice during the year.

The principal nuisances dealt with related to defective roofs 20, dampness 9, defective eaves, guttering, etc., 5, drainage cleansed or repaired 58.

Three cases of Bug Infestation were discovered during the year. In one case the premises were treated under the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Buildings) Regulations, 1938, and in the two other cases by spraying, fumigation and steam disinfection.

During the year 44 fumigations were carried out by the department following Infectious Diseases, or at the request of residents, and 25 batches of bedding etc. were removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection. Charges were made for this work where the case was not attributed to a notifiable Infectious Disease.

NEW DRAINAGE.

The following extensions to the Soil Sewerage system and Surface Water Sewers were carried out during the year on a site developed by the Council for Housing purposes at Seal Hollow Road:—

2,053 feet of 6in. Soil Sewer.
46 feet of 9in. Soil Sewer.
604 feet of 9in. Surface Water Sewer.
375 feet of 6in. Surface Water Sewer.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the same period the Sevenoaks Waterworks Company carried out the following extensions to their water mains in the area:—

518 yds. of 6in. main—Downsview Road.
168 yds. of 6in. main—Seal Hollow Road Housing Site.
159 yds. of 4in. main—Seal Hollow Road Housing Site.
103 yds. of 6in. main—The Rise, Tonbridge Road.
136 yds. of 4in. main—The Rise, Tonbridge Road.

Nine samples of domestic water supply were taken in different parts of the town by the Public Health Department for bacteriological examination, and the reports upon these were satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLIES.

The milk supplies for the town have been kept under supervision and the bulk of the milk continues to be derived from the rural areas. Two complaints were received during the year relating to the poor keeping qualities of the milk and these were taken up with the retail suppliers concerned. There is one large pasteurising plant in the area at Clenches Dairy. The original plant, which was of the holding process type, was removed, and a new plant of the high temperature short time type installed.

During the year 144 visits were paid to Dairies and Cowsheds, and four defects were discovered and dealt with by informal action. The following samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted for examination:—

Pasteurised	21
Tuberculin Tested	7
Accredited	4

In all cases the samples complied with the Prescribed Conditions laid down in the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

HOUSING.

The chief item of interest under this heading has been the re-housing of families in the new Council Houses and in the Temporary Accommodation provided by the Council by the conversion of flats under their Requisitioning Powers. It is pleasing to record that during the year 53 families were removed into permanent accommodation provided by the Council. Up to the end of the year 84 families had also been provided with temporary accommodation.

The work of dealing with the many applicants for housing became very pressing in the year, and much time was spent by the Department in interviewing and visiting.

During this work 17 cases of Overcrowding came to light, and it was possible to relieve 13 of them during the year.

The building of new houses has obviously taken first priority both in labour and materials, and housing repair work was reduced to a minimum.

INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

During the year 299 visits were made by the Health Department under this Order. 40 premises were dealt with and the approximate number of rats killed is estimated as 1,000. There were no heavy Major Infestations discovered, but since the time the Council made this service free to the ratepayers in connection with private dwellings, many useful kills were made. I am pleased to report that as far as is known the Business and Shopping Area is reasonably free from rats.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The two Slaughter-houses in the area under the control of the Ministry of Food have been in continual use and serve both the Urban and Rural Areas, and the work of meat inspection has been carried out during the year. These have been maintained in a reasonable condition, and close co-operation exists between my Department and the Manager of the Slaughter-houses appointed by the Ministry of Food.

471 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat. The total amount of meat and edible offal condemned at the two Slaughter-houses was 11 tons 19 cwt. 40 lbs. Of this amount 3 tons 12 cwt. 18 lbs. represented condemned edible offal. All condemned meat and offal is dealt with through the salvage scheme of the Ministry of Food.

In addition to the above 12 cwt. 97 lbs. of other food which upon examination in the various parts of the town was found to be unfit for human consumption was surrendered to the Public Health Department and passed through the salvage scheme. Represented in this figure were 407 tins of foodstuff which were found to be unfit for human consumption.

GENERAL.

The Council's General Purposes Ambulance, which is run in co-operation with the Sevenoaks Rural District Council, has been maintained throughout the year on a 24-hour basis, and it would appear that this service is very much appreciated by the residents of the area.

The work under the Coal Distribution Order, 1943, under which I act as Local Fuel Overseer for your Council, has again been carried on, and I would like to record my thanks to the staff in my Department who have assisted me in the work during the year.

SUMMARY.

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers Order, I give below the number and nature of inspections carried out during the year:—

Slaughter-houses	471
Food Preparing Places	353
Factories Act	40
Shops Acts	61
Petroleum Act	60
Infestation Order	299
Housing and Miscellaneous Visits	265
Bakehouses	58
Infectious Disease Visits	96
Dairies	144
Total	1,847

Informal Notices Served ...	132
Statutory Notices Served ...	1

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. J. GYPPS,
Sanitary Inspector.